generating a voltage gradient between the active electrode [surface] and tissue at the target site, the voltage gradient being sufficient to create an electric field that breaks down the tissue through molecular dissociation.

55. (Once Amended) The method of claim 54 wherein the generating step comprises:

providing a return electrode electrically coupled to a high frequency voltage source;

applying a high frequency voltage between the active electrode [surface] and [a] the return electrode [surface]; and

vaporizing the electrically conducting liquid in a thin layer over at least a portion of the active electrode surface.

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted this application to one of the following inventions:

(1) Claims 1-59, drawn to a method for applying electrical energy to a target site; and

(2) Claims 60-79, drawn to an electrosurgical system for use with a high frequency power supply.

Applicant elects Group 1 without traverse. Applicant also notes that a divisional application directed to the Group 2 claims is being filed concurrently with this response.

Applicant has also made some minor claim amendments to some of the method claims in the elected group. These amendments have been made to more clearly define the relationship between the active and return electrodes and the high frequency voltage source.

Respectfully submitted,

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